

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1346

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 8466

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CVIS, UR, US

SUBJECT: VISA FOR LENINGRAD MARINE GUARD

REF: A) STATE 142521, B) MOSCOW 8226

1. REVIEW OF EMBASSY CONSULAR FILES SHOWS THAT VAST MAJORITY OF VISA REQUESTS FOR SOVIET EMBASSY OR SOVIET CONGEN PERSONNEL -- WHETHER HOLDING DIPLOMATIC OR SERVICE PPTS -- HAVE BEEN HONORED WITHIN 3-5 DAYS. ONE RECENT EXCEPTION IS REF B REQUEST FOR VLADISLAV PISKUNOV AND WIFE, ON USSR SERVICE PASSPORTS TO SOV CONGEN SAN FRANCISCO, ETD JUNE 25. REF B CLEARANCE REQUEST SENT JUNE 13, NO REPLY TO DATE.

2. DUE TO VOLUME OF CONSULAR WORKLOAD (CONSULAR TELEGRAMS MAKE UP APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF COMMUNICATIONS WORKLOAD ON ANY GIVEN DAY) CANNOT HONESTLY RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF SOME DELAY IN EMBASSY SUBMISSION OF CLEARANCE REQUESTS FOR PERHAPS HANDFUL OF SOVEMB OR CONGEN CASES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS. HOWEVER, BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES -- WHICH AFTER ALL ARE NOT UNKNOWN TO OUR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS -- SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH EMBASSY POLICY. THIS CONTINUES TO BE TO ISSUE VISAS TO SOVIET SERVICE PASSPORT HOLDERS WITHIN 3-5 DAYS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
MATLOCK

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